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WHatever ſome People may fanſy who are flatter'd on the Subject of their Dexterity in Writing, I, for my part, frankly own, that nothing gives me higher Satisfaction than puбliſhing an agreeable Letter from any able Correſpondent. I know well enough what has been ſaid of calling in potent auxiliaries, and thereby running the Hazard of being ſwallow'd by our Allies; my Attachment to the Publick Service ſets me above thoſe Fears, and provided my Readers are but entertain'd, 'tis to me the ſame Thing whether by my Friend or myſelf. Beſides, a Correſpondent's Favour has another Advantage, it diverſifies the Nature of theſe Papers, and creates Variety, which is alſo a ſure Method of pleaſing. A Series of Eſſays from the ſame Hand, tho' ever ſo good in themſelves, muſt tire the Town in a ſhort Space; for it is in Writing as in Diſcourſes, we are fatigued with what flows from the ſame Man, and delighted if we hear the Sentiments of many. To a due Obſervation of theſe Maxims the *Tatler*, *Spectator*, and *Guardian*, ow'd, in all Probability, their general Reception they met with; as I much queſtion whether the ill Fortune attending other Papers of the ſame Kind, has not been chiefly owing to a Want of Care in this Particular, to a Jealouſy in their Authors of being excell'd in their own Trade, or a Want of Fortitude in puбliſhing what contradicted their own Sentiments; as if a Letter was to owe its Merit not to its Author's Senſe, but to the Conformity of his Senſe to theirs. Every Man denies Infallibility in the Groſs, and yet preſumes upon it for himſelf and his Opinions. In this Senſe, at leaſt, all *Wits* are *Popes*, and to balance with all Readers, Proteſtants.

I have been led into theſe Reflections from an Epiſtle lately gave the World from my worthy Correſpondent Mr. Cuss; who, I hear, is equally famous as a Virtuoſo and a Politician. He certainly has ſhewn a great deal of good Senſe and true Humour in his Accounts of Fidenco and PLUMBOSUS, with which I was as well pleaſed as any of my Readers could be; tho' from my Acquaintance with the Perſons I differ from him much in Sentiment; and as there are a great Variety of Temper in the World, perhaps my Notions, when known, may meet with the Approbation of ſome People as well as his. Be that, however, as it will, I will venture to cover them, merely to illuſtrate his Obſervation, that the Study of human Nature is a very entertaining as well as inſtructive Science. We all ſee, but we do not all perceive alike. What to one appears a Foible, ſeems to another a Perfection: And hence it is that a Fellow who is a Coxcomb with the Men, is notwithſtanding a fine Gentleman with the Ladies. This is ſometimes owing to Prejudice on one Side, ſometimes to Weakneſs on the other, and very often to a Want of juſt Attention in both. A Perſon who has a Defect in his Eyeſight muſt neceſſarily form confuſed Ideas even of the faireſt Objects. He who has a defective Judgment muſt fall into the ſame Error, if his Sight be ever ſo good, and a quick Eye and a ſtrong Brain will not always defend a Man from being impoſ'd upon, if he does not allow himſelf Leiſure to conſider. Add to all this, the Difference of Educations and Habits, and it will be eaſy to ſee why Men differ as much in criticiſing their Neighbour's Conduct in Life, as the Repreſentation thereof in Plays.

For my own Part, PATRICIO's ſeems to me no deſpicable Character, and yet I cannot ſay my Correſpondent has miſs'd it much. He talks a great deal, it is true, and perhaps in many People's Opinion to little Purpoſe, the Majority, however, of his Cuſtomers think otherwiſe. It is one Thing to talk in a Coffee-houſe, and another in a great Aſſembly; yet each is an Orator who talks well in either. Now in a Coffee-houſe, as I conceive, Narration is the moſt proper Kind of Diſcourſe. This may indeed be ſeaſon'd with Reflections, but I doubt whether their Merit will conſiſt in their Solidity or not: I incline rather to think that it depends on their Agreeableneſs to the Judgment of the Audience. A Remark that would do a Man Honour in a Company of great Wits, would make little or no Impreſſion on ordinary People. Thus we obſerve even among the Learned, that *Lucan* and *Seneca* have as many Admirers as *Virgil* and *Pliny*. Perhaps we need not riſe ſo high; we know many of our taking Plays are far from being the beſt Books is as good an Author with this Town as Mr. *Congreve*; and I have ſeen as many wet Eyes at his *Albion Queens*, as at the other's *Mourning Bride*; nay, if I ſhould ſy twice as many, I believe I ſhould not be much in the wrong. As for *Tom Brown*, he has ten Admirers for *Butler*'s one; and yet he would paſs for an egregious Blockhead, who ſhould from thence pretend to form a Compariſon between the Men.

But as a Bookſeller calls an Author excellent if his Works ſell, ſo I eſteem a Coffee-houſe Politician eloquent if his Diſcourſe pleaſes, becauſe that's the great End of it; he does not talk to be admir'd or to inſtruct, but to divert, and therefore if he does this, he excels in his Profeſſion; even my Correſpondent allows that PATRICIO does this; and indeed he would have done him great Injuſtice if he had not allow'd it: For certainly no Man in his Station talks with greater Applauſe than my City Friend, and if this was doubted, I could call ſeveral Gentlemen of a Learned Faculty to prove it, nor ſhould I forbear, but that the Thing is paſt Diſpute. Things ſtanding thus, I muſt own to me it is very plain, that PATRICIO's a Man of Genius, for his Diſcourſe ſuits with his Matter, and with the Expectations of thoſe who hear him. If he harangued in this Manner at a C——H—ll, or in the Houſe of C——s, I ſhould readily give him up for a Coxcomb; but here, where he ſpeaks to the Purpoſe, allow me to pronounce him a Man of Senſe. This Pertneſs and Volubility are neceſſary Accompliſhments, without the firſt he would be thought dull, and without the latter nothing extraordinary. His ludicrous Dialect is another invaluable Advantage; it enables him to give the moſt ſerious Things a Reliſh even with common Taſtes, to whom otherwiſe they muſt be inſipid. What has a Tradeſman to do with the *Pragmatick Sanction?* Or what cares a Broker (if he does not deal in the *Emperor's Loan*) which Way Affairs go in *Sileſia*. The War in the North is of ſmall Importance to a Buyer of Tickets, and he who comes to purchaſe *India* Bonds, would never think of *Kouli Kan*, if *Patricio* did not oblige him with a droll Deſcription of his plundering the *Great Mogul*, and haltering his own Elephants with Strings of Pearl.

PLUMBOSUS too is a uſeful Man in his Way. His Taciturnity is not the Effect either of a natural Sullenneſs or of any Habit he has contracted from his Acquaintance; quite the contrary: It ſprings from pure Diſcernment, his Acquaintance are the moſt talkative People upon Earth, and if he was as vociferous as PATRICIO he muſt be continually upon ill Terms with them. Conceited of their own Abilities, and fond of their own Noiſe, the Congregation of Speakers would be up in Arms, if their Chairman was not next akin to a Mute. His Penetration however goes further, it enables him to uſe a Language agreeable even to his loquacious Viſitants. His Geſtures anſwer all the Ends of Diſcourſe, without the Inconveniences of Interruption. Every Man's Temper inclines him to underſtand Nods and Shrugs in a ſatisfactory Senſe. What one Man takes for Sneer ſeems to another Approbation; for according to the old Proverb, *as the Fool thinks the Bell clinks*. PLUMBOSUS in the mean time reaps the Effects of their Satisfaction, and enjoys the Fruits of his own Prudence. An extraordinary Piece of News, a lucky Deduction, a ſolid Remark, would ſignify little if utter'd at once or often repeated, but properly placed at the Cloſe of a long String of Enquiries in the midſt of a profound Silence, or when by the united Voice of the Aſſembly he is called upon to give the Judgment of the Houſe, then to ſay a ſhining Thing or drop a grave Reflection is of the higheſt Conſequence, it ſtrikes forcibly upon every Ear, and commands the Attention of every Underſtanding. This doubtleſs he knows, and governs his Conduct by the Dictates of Experience.

I have hitherto conſider'd the Behaviour of this great Man as correſponding with his conſtant Company; but if you view it in another Light, and as it ſtrikes Strangers, it is ſtill more extraordinary. A Man who is not us'd to that Quarter of the Town is ſurpriz'd to behold a Group of Chatterers more noiſy, and yet ſcarce more intelligible than Magpies, with one in the Midſt as ſober and as ſilent as an Owl; ſuch a one is as deſirous to hear PLUMBOSUS ſpeak, as ambitious of ſeeing the reſt hold their Tongues. Our Politician is ſenſible of this, and therefore takes care to raiſe his Wonder by ſome extraordinary Mark of his Capacity. Either he mentions ſome Intelligence from the Secretary's Office, or reconciles two jarring Paragraphs in a Gazette, explains the Motives to the *Batavian Maſſacre*, or accounts for the *Swediſh* Eagerneſs to War at a Time when they were leaſt prepar'd for it. If at any time a Man of more than ordinary Parts falls in his Way, he is all Attention, he ſeizes on every Fact, he lays up every Reflection, and when a proper Occaſion offers he brings them forth again as his own. All this Management tends to his own Profit 'tis true, but to the Detriment of no Man living; he is wiſe for himſelf, and not altogether unuſeful to others. With all this he is a good Subject, he is content to believe that a Man in Office may mean his Country well, tho' of his King's chooſing; and tho' nothing can give him higher Pleaſure than being the firſt Utterer of a Secret, yet Scandal is none of his Province, and he will rather be ſilent than ſpread Sedition. Theſe are rare Qualities, and merit Approbation. Such a Man fills his Station in Life well; he, like a good Centinel, minds his Poſt, and what can we reaſonably expect from him more?

There are Places where nothing circulate but publick Cenſure or private Defamation; where if you join thoſe who ſpeak aloud, you preſently find yourſelf involv'd in a Labyrinth of Politicks. One aſſures you that this Intrigue is diſcover'd, the other, that ſuch a great Man will be undone; one tells you the Price of Boroughs, the other ſwears that Patriots have had them for nothing. If to avoid this nonſenſical Diſcourſe you retire to the other End of the Room, 'tis odds but you ſtumble on the Club that ſits daily upon their Neighbours Reputations, who can tell by a Man's Dinner whether he ſhall fail or thrive, and who predict from Accidents the Tenour of a Man's Conduct. Such a one has had a Coat more this Summer than he needed, and the other Man is certainly an extravagant Fellow becauſe he carried his Family to a Play, tho' perhaps 'twas againſt his Will. Theſe Whiſperers are a thouſand times worſe than crack-brain'd Politicians. A Man who is enthuſiaſtically fond of *Kouli-Kan* may be ridiculous, but he who hates the Government that protects him is a dangerous Offender, To diſpute warmly whether *Hudſon's-Bay* or *Archangel* be the colder Climate is ſomewhat whimſical, but to wound a Man's Reputation becauſe he is not exactly of one's own Temper, and to conſtrue every Peccadillo into a capital Crime, is treacherous and baſe. On the Whole therefore, Humouriſts are not altogether uſeleſs, at the ſame time that they are not miſchievous Members of Society; wherefore we ought not to expoſe them, but rather to excuſe, or pity them at leaſt.

I will conclude this Paper with taking notice of a new Race of Banterers, who make it their Buſineſs firſt to deceive and then to demoliſh their Bubbles. I have known ſuch a Perſon invent a long Story, adorn'd with a great Variety of Circumſtances all tending to render probable ſome notorious Falſhood, and when he has drawn ſome better-meaning Man than himſelf to expreſs his Amaze at the Strangeneſs of the Tale, has had the Impudence to laugh in his Face; as if the not knowing the Iniquity of ſuch a Fellow's Heart by Inſtinct was any Defect in Underſtanding, or that it was the Duty of every Man of Senſe to ſuſpect what another ſaid. Such People inſtead of ſhewing their Wit ſhew their Folly, and by employing their Talents to ſuch mean Purpoſes forfeit the Reputation their Quickneſs might otherwiſe acquire. But when two or three of this Sort of Folks concur in their Schemes and by ſupporting each others Teſtimony impoſe on a Croud of honeſt People, who perhaps make a Scruple of ſuppoſing that a well-dreſt Man will publickly tell a Lye, it is intolerable, and thoſe who have Penetration enough to detect their dark Purpoſes ſhould defeat them, inſtead of joining in the Laugh. To theſe Retailers of Romances we owe half the villanous Rumours that fly about Town. What is meant for Amuſement in one Place becomes Matter of Reflection in another, and the Tale that was deviſed to ſtrike a private Company becomes in two Days time the Subject of publick Converſation, and for want of a Key Fictions paſs for Facts, and ill-contriv'd Jokes for ſerious Truths, as if there was ſome Merit in miſleading the World, and making Mankind pray at Croſs-purpoſes.

Theſe Pictures of human Nature are the laſt I ſhall have an Opportunity of exhibiting for ſome Months; the buſy Seaſon of the Year is now arriv'd, when the Affairs of the Publick will entirely command our Attention. as they ought the Affections of every honeſt Man.

R. FREEMAN.

P. S. The *Champion* in his Paper of *Saturday Jan.* 2. publiſhed a *Home-Paragraph* with much *Oſtentation*, which, if true, it was certainly his Intereſt to have conceal'd. His Coadjutor *Caleb D'Anvers* remark'd not long ago, that there are *White Lyes* as well as *Black*; but with Submiſſion to the *Oracle* from whom he receiv'd this Maxim, what he ſtiles *White Lyes* are in reality no *Lyes* at all.

Beſides, on a View of the *Bonfire* and other Rejoicings from the Place he mentions, it was a *natural Concluſion*, that they were made on account of the PRINCESS of HESSE's *Delivery*; it was a loyal, juſt, and reaſonable *Conjecture*, founded in the Nature of Things, and ſupported by the Circumſtance of the *Houſe* before which the *great Bonfire* was; the *Birth* of the *young Prince of Heſſe* concerning the *Owner* more than any *Election* whatever.

I

It ſeems there are wide Differences, as in other things, ſo in the Concluſion of the *Friends* to the *Government* and the *Malecontents* from the ſame *Premiſes*, of which this may ſerve for a Proof: But if the *honourable Perſon* who made the *Anſwer* was influenc'd in his Opinion by Conſiderations of Duty, Affection, and Loyalty on the *one hand*, and of juſt Caution and Reſpect on the *other*, I ſuppoſe he can be ſtigmatiz'd as a *Suppreſſor* of *Truth* by ſuch *only* as want all theſe *Qualities*.

Yeſterday arrived a Mail from France.

Petersbourg, Dec. 8.

SAturday laſt the greateſt Part of the Guard on Count Lowenwolde, Grand Marſhal, was taken off, and only ſix Grenadiers left; the Seals on his Effects were alſo taken off, and his Keys return'd him. Major General Albreit has been diſmiſſed from the Prebrozenski Guards, of which he was Major, and Major General Tettau from the Cadets which he commanded. The Prince of Holſtein, who was Major General in this Service, and had Leave to go to Konigsberg laſt Year, is return'd ſince the late Change, and has been made a Lieutenant General. Prince Galitzin, the Felt Marſhal's Son by his firſt Wife, who had formerly been employ'd in Courland, and was afterwards ſent away to Aſtracan in Diſgrace, returned laſt Week from thence, having been ſent for back by the late Regent, and was graciouſly receiv'd by her preſent Majeſty. M. Czirkaſſoff, who was diſgrac'd at the Beginning of the late Reign, having been alſo reſtor'd to Favour by the late Regent, arriv'd here ſome Weeks ago: He was formerly private Cabinet Secretary to Peter I. and diſpatch'd Buſne's immediately under that Prince's Eye, and often unknown to any of his Miniſters. Her preſent Majeſty has replac'd him in the ſame Quality about her own Perſon. An Order has been publiſhed by Beat of Drum, that all thoſe who had any Effects belonging to the Felt Marſhal Munich or his Son, Counts Oſterman and Golofkin, or Preſident Mengden, ſhould immediately declare them.

Berlin, Jan. 2. *N. S.* 'Tis rumour'd here, that there has happen'd ſomething in Bohemia to the Diſadvantage of the Allies, but as yet we have no certain Accounts.

Hambourg, Jan. 5. The new Empreſs has ſent M. Korff, an Officer of her Guards, with the Order of St. Andrew, and a Preſent of 50,000 Rubles to the Duke of Holſtein; and her Majeſty ſhews a great Regard and Tenderneſs for that young Prince.

FOREIGN PORTS.

Liſbon, Dec. 28. *N. S.* On the 17th arrived from Newfoundland, the Luſitania, Rowell; the Ethelred, Biſhop; the Dolly, Teague; and the Benjamin, Osborn; under Convoy of the Romney Man of War, Smith: On the 21ſt, the Two Brothers, Grantland; the Diana, Gill; the Eagle, Tatterſhall; the John, Leigh; the Loyal Conſort, Stapleton; the Happy Molly, Skinner; the Joyce, Penny; the St. Michael, Deane; the David, Wilſon; the Adventure, White; the Supply, Smith; the Joſeph, Puſmore; the Richard and Martha, Everden; the Victory, Upcot; and the Prince Frederick, Lovell, from Falmouth: On the 23d, the Anſley, Allen, and the Trimmer, Rediard, both from London: On the 28th, the Six Brothers, Laughlin, and the Friend's Adventure, Harriſon, from Briſtol.

Sailed for Gibraltar on the 18th the Rocheſter Man of War, with the Nazareth, Tobin, for ditto; the Providence, Cauſe, for Dublin: On the 20th, the Vernon, Couzens, and the Dolphin, Daracot, for New-England.

HOME PORTS.

Briſtol, Jan. 3. This Day arrived the Adventure, Willoughby, from Newfoundland, laſt from Cork.

'Who informs me that the Superbe Man of War, Capt. Harvey, from Jamaica, has taken and carried into Kinſale a rich Ship from the Carraccas.'

Dover, Jan. 4. Wind N. N. W. Arrived the Buchanan, Crawford, and the St. Thomas, Wallace, both from Virginia; and the Barclay, Dobb, from Liverpool for Hull. Sailed the Guiney Galley, Borrello, for Middleburgh; the John and Mary, Poſgate, for Scarborough; the Induſtry, Smith, for Dunkirk; and the Zeuwburg, Bruche, for Bruges.

Deal, Jan. 4. Wind N. W. Came down and ſail'd thro', the Ferdinand, Lamott, for Guniney; the Sarah Galley, Maxey, the Lovely Betty, Wane, and the Jenny, Staples, all for Jamaica; the Priſcilla, Carter, the Britannia, Hutchinſon, and the Luſitania, Groſvenor, all for Barbados; the Titchfield, Campbell, for Carolina; the Harponier, Haydon, the Haſlemere, Walker, and the Montſerrat Merchant, Fergus, all for Madeira; the Elizabeth, Woodhouſe, for Gibraltar; the Sheldon, Marſhall, and the Vernon, Bills, both for Cork and Jamaica; and the Chriſtopher, Dunn, for Dublin. Arrived the Tomlinſon, Tomlinſon, from Barbados, laſt from Wales.

LONDON, January 2.

The George and William, Pike, from Newfoundland, is loſt on the Bar of Oporto.

The Jolliffe's Adventure, Street, from Pool for South Carolina, appears to be the Ship taken by the Spaniards. And that the Induſtry, Martin, from London for Maryland, has been carried into Bilbao.

Letters from Liſbon, dated Dec. 30. N. S adviſe, that two French Ships of War, one of 70 and another of 50 Guns, were arrived there from Breſt, as was a French Snow of War from Havredegrace; and remark, that ſuch a Sight had not been ſeen in the Tagus for near 40 Years before.

The Rocheſter Man of War, Capt. Williams, with one Storeſhip ſailed for Gibraltar Dec. 18. N.S. and Commodore Cornwall with two Men of War was to follow in a Day or two after the 29th, and the Elizabeth Man of War would do the like, ſo ſoon as refitted.

His Majeſty has been pleaſed to appoint Charles Clarke, Eſq; Knight of the Shire in the laſt Parliament for Huntingdon, an eminent Counſellor at Law, to be one of the Judges of the King's Bench, in the room of Mr. Juſtice Page deceaſed.

Yeſterday died at his Houſe in St. James's-ſtreet, Weſtminſter, after fifteen Hours Illneſs of a Quinſey, Mr. Davenant, Senior, one of the Chief Clerks under the Hon. Thomas Townſhend, Eſq; one of the Tellers of his Majeſty's Exchequer.

Yeſterday the Corpſe of the Lady of the Right Rev. the Lord Biſhop of London was carried from his Lordſhip's Houſe at Whitehall and interred amongſt her Anceſtors in the Pariſh Church of Lambeth.

High Water this Day at London-Bridge.	Morning	10	49
	Evening	11	55

Bank Stock, 135 1-4th to 1-8th. India, 158 3-4ths. South Sea, 103 3-4ths to 104. Old Annuity, 111 3-4ths. New ditto, 111 5-8ths to 1-half. Three per Cent. 100. Seven per Cent. Loan, Nothing done. Five per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Royal Aſſurance, 89 1-4th. London Aſſurance, 11. African, 10. India Bonds, 3 l. 19 s. to 4 l. 1 s. Premium. Bank Circulation, 3 l. Prem. Salt Tallies, Nothing done. Engliſh Copper, 3 l. 15 s. Welſh ditto, 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders, Nothing done. Three per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Million Bank, 113. Equivalent, 112.

Admiralty-Office, December 30, 1741.

HIS *Majeſty's Ship the Leopard, which is fitting out for the Sea, being now at Longreach, it is the Direction of my Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, that the Men turned over into that Ship from the Hampton-Court and Lark do immediately repair on board to their Duty, on pain of the Loſs of their Wages, and alſo of being apprehended and tried at a Court Martial as Deſerters.*

Tho. Corbett.

Admiralty Office, December 31. 1741.

HIS *Majeſty's Ship the Advice, which is fitting for the Sea, being got to the Nore, it is the Direction of my Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty that all the Seamen turned over into the ſaid Ship from the Windſor, Alborough, and Eleanor Fireſhip, do immediately repair on board to their Duty, on pain of Loſs of their Wages, and being taken up and tried as Deſerters. If the ſaid Men apply to the Regulating Captains at their Office in Markane, they will ſend them in Tenders down to their Ship, with their Cheſts and Bedding.*

Tho. Corbett.

Admiralty Office, January 2, 1741.

MY *Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty having ordered the Petty Officers and Foremaſtmen of his Majeſty's Ship the Sunderland to be removed into the Duke at Spithead; and the Petty Officers and Foremaſtmen of the Colcheſter to be removed into the Cambridge, at the ſame Place; and the Leave of Abſence which has been given to the Colcheſter's Men expiring on the 6th Inſtant, and that to the Sunderland's Men on the 9th Inſtant, it is their Lordſhips Directions, that the ſaid Petty Officers and Foremaſtmen do immediately on the Expiration of their Leave, repair to Spithead on board the Ships they are ordered to be removed into, on pain not only of loſing their Wages, but of being apprehended, and tried as Deſerters.*

If the ſaid Men apply to the Navy Board, they will be allowed Conduct Money, and Carriage for their Cheſts and Bedding to Portſmouth; and they will be paid their Wages for the Sunderland and Colcheſter, and alſo Two Months Wages Advance, before the Ships they will ſerve in proceed to Sea.

Tho. Corbett.

Bank, June 1, 1741.

WHereas JOHN WAITE, *late one of the Caſhiers of the* Bank of England, *about* Forty Years *of Age, and about Five Foot Eight Inches high, well ſet, round ſag'd, ſmall grey Eyes, very light* Eye-brows *and* Eye-lash *and of a moſt remarkable freſh Complection, abſented himſelf on Wedneſday the* 13*th of May laſt from his Duty as the Bank, and is ſuppoſed to have ſecreted, or taken away with him from the Bank, East-India Bonds, amounting to a conſiderable Value;*

And whereas Warrants are iſſued for Apprehending and Taking the ſaid John Waite, *This is to give Notice, That whoever ſhall apprehend and ſecure the ſaid* John Waite *to be dealt with according to Law, ſhall receive of the Governor and Company the Sum of* Three hundred Pounds *over and above the* Two hundred Pounds *offered in ſeveral Advertiſements,* in the Whole Five Hundred Pounds.

David Le Gros, *Secretary.*

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